

Trestleboard

Unity No. 146 Masonic Lodge

Chartered December 13, 1870 by the Grand Lodge of Virginia

www.Unity146.org

July 2019

Brethren,

I had been wondering what to speak to you about for this July Trestle board for some time. I knew that I wanted to talk on the subject of Friendship, Morality and Brotherly Love in honor of the Grand Master's official visit to our district this month, but I was unsure of how to approach the subject. Then as most things happen, as I had put aside my predicament all together, inspiration struck.

My wife and I have had a tradition with our sons that during their summer vacation, we like to take one or two day "day trips" to various locations in the surrounding area. Being here in the Shenandoah Valley, you can travel for 1 -2 hours in pretty much any direction and arrive at a historically significant location. We normally try to prepare the boys for our trips by reading books or watching movies so that they may have a way into where we are visiting. So as our tradition has it, last weekend we watched a movie about where we were going to be traveling. It is a great movie full of inspiring speeches, seemingly larger than life fights and plenty of humor and action. However, my favorite part had always been a side story within the story. This was a story of two best friends. They had been friends for many years, but now found themselves on opposite sides of the battle line. I have heard this story of the two men several times and have even spoken to my boys about them. I have always seen this friendship as a representation of the entire conflict and wanted to share it with you and perhaps dig a little deeper.

156 years ago the Battle of Gettysburg was fought from July 1st to July 3rd. I am sure that you are all well aware of this battle, the significance of it during the Civil War and the various events that occurred across the three days. I am also sure that some of you have even now guessed to the identities of the two friends of which I spoke of before, but there is more to the story than I first thought. I would like to bring your attention to the third day of battle, July 3rd 1863 and the infantry charge now known as Pickett's Charge. The two friends were Army of the Potomac's II Corps Commander, Major General Winfield Scott Hancock and Army of Northern Virginia Brigade Commander, General Lewis "Lo" Addison Armistead.

Generals Armistead and Hancock were the best of friends, you would say that they were like brothers, and both served together in the Army stationed in California. When the Civil War broke out, General Armistead could not bear to take arms against his fellow Virginians and therefore resigned his commission in the United States Army. Although they were on opposite sides of the conflict, both men stayed apprised of the others

EVENTS

JULY 2019 UNITY BLUE LODGE ACTIVITIES AT UNITY LODGE NO. 146

07/03 – Unity Stated Communication, Dinner @ 630p followed by Meeting @ 730p.

07/10, 07/17, 07/24 & 07/31 – Blue Lodge Ritual Practice @ 630p

07/27 – Unity Lodge Breakfast @ 8a

JULY 2019 NON-BLUE LODGE ACTIVITIES AT UNITY LODGE NO. 146

07/12 – Order of the Eastern Star #6 @ 7p ** Meeting moved from the 5th due to the holiday **

07/19 – RAC Hiram #45 @ 730p

07/27 – Sojourners Meeting @ 8a

JULY 2019 ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES BEING HELD ELSEWHERE

07/19 – Blue Ridge Vol. Fire Department @ 6p.

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location and health and both were happy that they had never had to directly fight against the other. That is until July 3rd, 1863.

On the afternoon of July 3rd, Lieutenant General James Longstreet gave the order for Major General George Edward Pickett's Virginia Units to charge the center of the Union's line along with units from North Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee. One of Pickett's commanders - General Armistead. At the center of the Union line - the Army of the Potomac's II Corps, commanded by General Hancock.

General Armistead was mortally wounded at the copse of trees just past the "bloody angle" or "high water mark." He commanded one of the only units to break through the Union line. It is said that as he went down he was heard to call out for help "as the son of a widow." Many of the men of the near-by 69th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry rose up in the middle of the battle, leaving their place of cover, to go to the assistance of Brother Armistead (Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22). Captain Henry Harrison Bingham met Armistead on the field of battle and informed him that General Hancock had also been wounded that day. Being struck with grief, Brother Armistead entrusted personal letters and a watch which bore a square and compasses to Brother Bingham (Chartiers Lodge No. 297, Canonsburg, PA) to be given to his friend, his brother, Brother Hancock (Charity Lodge No. 190, Norristown, PA).

In 1993, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania erected a memorial to the Freemasons of the Union and Confederacy. It states:

Friend to Friend
Masonic Memorial

This monument is presented by the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania and dedicated as a memorial to the Freemasons of the Union and Confederacy. Their unique bonds of friendship enabled them to remain a brotherhood undivided, even as they fought in a divided nation, faithfully supporting the respective governments under which they lived.

Union General Winfield Scott Hancock and Confederate General Lewis Addison Armistead were personal friends and members of the Masonic Fraternity.

Although they had served and fought side by side in the United States army prior to the Civil War, Armistead refused to raise his sword against his fellow Southerners and joined the Confederate Army in 1861.

Both Hancock and Armistead fought heroically in the previous twenty-seven months of the war. They were destined to meet at Gettysburg.

During Pickett's Charge, Armistead led his men gallantly, penetrating Hancock's line. Ironically, when Armistead was mortally wounded, Hancock was also wounded.

Grand Master's Official
Visit to Districts 2 & 3

07/30 - Winchester
Hiram Lodge No. 21 @
7p. Masters & Wardens

**2019 DATES TO "KEEP ON
YOUR RADAR"**

08/29 - Washington
Lodge No. 78 (Joint) at
Unity Lodge No. 146 @
7p. District Ritual School

09/21 - TBD @
12p. District 3 Bring A
Friend Picnic

10/12 -
MAHOVA. Masonic
Family Day

10/29 - Winchester
Hiram Lodge No. 21
(Joint) at Unity Lodge No.
146 @ 7p. Masters &
Wardens / District Ritual
School / DEO Program

11/08-10 -
Richmond. 2019 Grand
Annual Communication

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Depicted in this sculpture is Union Captain Henry Bingham, a Mason and staff assistant to General Hancock, himself wounded, rendering aid to the fallen Confederate General. Armistead is shown handing his watch and personal effects to be taken to his friend, Union General Hancock.

Hancock survived the war and died in 1886. Armistead died at Gettysburg July 5, 1863. Captain Bingham attained the rank of General and later served 32 years in the United States House of Representatives. He was known as the "Father of the House."

Shown on the wall surrounding this monument are the names of the States whose soldiers fought at the Battle of Gettysburg.



I cannot think of a better example of Friendship and Brotherly Love, than this story of two best friends and Brothers separated by duty, especially being very timely considering that it will be 156 years to the day of our July 2019 Stated Communication, or is there. I now ask that you not consider the story or actions of Brother Armistead, Brother Hancock or even Brother Bingham in this story.

Instead, let us think of the Brotherly Love shone by the men, the Brothers, of the 69th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. Upon hearing the cry of a fellow Brother, unknown to them, an enemy just moments before leading men that were attempting to kill them, arose from behind protection in the midst of one of the bloodiest battles, in the bloodiest war to render aid and sustain a fallen Brother.

Official Visit of the 174th Grand Master of Masons in the Commonwealth of Virginia

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On Friday, July 19, 2019 at 6:00pm, Most Worshipful William Edward "Bill" Hershey, Jr. 174th Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, will make his Official Visit to Masonic Districts No. 2 & 3.

The event will be held in the social hall of the Blue Ridge Volunteer Fire Department, 131 Retreat Road, Bluemont, VA 20135. The Grand Master and his wife are expected to arrive no later than 6:00pm and dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. Grand Lodge Officers and the Grand master's party will wear tuxedos, while other Brethren may wear suits. Ladies may wear church attire.

This will be a non-tiled event and is open to anyone that purchases a ticket. I strongly encourage you to attend with your family. I have had the opportunity several times in the past to see the Grand Master's presentations, and it has always been thought provoking and well worth my time.

There will only be 200 tickets available for this event, and Unity Lodge has only been allocated 20 of them. We have already sold out of our tickets, but can place you on a wait list to see if any of the other Lodges have any available tickets.

Sick and Distressed

Brother Heyward Grady Kolb, Jr passed away on June 2nd in the Virginia Beach Area. I would personally like to thank the Brothers of Princess Anne Lodge No. 25 in Virginia Beach who were able to perform the Masonic burial rites for Brother Kolb and his family.

Widow's Program

Our widow's program is alive and well thanks to the efforts of Brother Will. Not only was the Widow's May dinner a great success, but we will be joined by four of our ladies during the Grand Masters official visit on the 19th. Keep up the good work Will.

Brother Will Bryan (703) 969-9293 or Wbryan@sgws.com

Masonic Youth Organizations

On June 1st I had the opportunity to attend the initiation ceremony and DeMolay Degree for the new members of the newly formed Shenandoah Valley DeMolay Chapter with Right Worshipful Haas and Brother Nickols. This was an open event and was also attended by the families of the boys that were being initiated. I must tell you, I was extremely impressed by these young men that conducted these degrees. If you ever get an opportunity to attend one of these events, I would strongly encourage it, and strongly encourage you to bring a chair.

Brother Bob Nickols (443) 926-1773 or Rnickols@yahoo.com

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New Members of Unity Lodge

We passed brothers Haase and Butler to the degree of Fellowcraft in May. Please keep a close eye on your e-mail so you can join us, if it is within the length of your cable tow, to their MM degree. I am now attempting to put together a cast and find a lecturer. As I am sure you all know that the summer months can be the most difficult to get commitments from people since we all have plans with our families. Having said this, if you are available to learn a part, or just want to join in fellowship with your brethren, please join us on Wednesdays at the lodge for practice.

We have two new candidates which will be joining us at the West gate to begin their journey in Masonry. If it is within the length of your cable tow, please join us at Unity as we initiate Mr. Money and Broome into our fraternity. We are currently setting a date, please keep an eye on your inboxes.